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Always There*

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Idaho – Cambodia; wrapping up a busy year

By Maj. Chris Borders, IDNG SPP Director

This year is proving to be a sure sign of success for Idaho – Cambodia relations.

With the Medical First Responder mission just around the corner, the Idaho National Guard State Partnership with Cambodia will conclude its busiest year to date.



CBRN subject matter expert Tech Sgt. Donald Huffman of the 124th Civil Engineers demonstrates the proper use of chemical detection equipment during a hands-on information exchange with the RCAF. CBRN is a joint Idaho Air/Army Guard event and 2014 marked the third year of the engagement.

This year's activities included the continuation of several ongoing engagements: maintenance program development; two Chemical/Biological/Radiological/Nuclear (CBRN) subject matter exchanges; a generator power output conversion exchange; a logistics reform discussion and a civil engineering expert exchange. This

year also added a new engagement to the portfolio: a security forces Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE).



Members of the Idaho Army National Guard's Ordnance Training Battalion recognize their Cambodian counterparts during closing ceremonies of the annual Maintenance Exchange. Idaho's efforts include assisting the RCAF in expanding the development of a maintenance training program to support the RCAF's wheeled vehicle fleet. This year also marked the first year the two sides engaged in an in-depth discussion on the RCAF's current logistics program in an effort to help establish the way ahead for overall logistics reform. In total, Idaho engaged over 60 RCAF on sustainment-level maintenance operations, and supply and Logistics processes. 2014 marked the fifth year of maintenance engagement.

In addition to State Partnership Program (SPP) activities, 2014 saw a senior leader visit by Col. Robert Lytle, Land Component Commander and Brig. Gen. John Goodale, Assistant Idaho Adjutant General, during the Idaho Army National Guard's annual participation in the Angkor Sentinel exercise.

Other firsts in 2014 include a new alignment for the program. The program now falls under Brig. Gen. Brad Richy, Director of the Joint Staff. In the coming days he will

recommend to Maj. Gen. Gary Saylor, Commanding General of the Idaho National Guard, an individual to serve as Idaho's first Bilateral Affairs Officer. This individual will station at the embassy in Phnom Penh for a two-year tour and serve as the in-country liaison to coordinate Idaho efforts with the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF).

Sgt. Jacob Sam of D Co., 145th demonstrates methods for converting generators from 110 to 220 output at a logistics facility in Cambodia during the SPP's 2014 Generator SMEE. RCAF and Idaho Guard efforts have led to powering 2 additional RCAF facilities that previously had no electricity. Additionally, the RCAF now possesses the capability to convert and maintain the remaining generator fleet on their own. The exchange took place in Long Vek, Cambodia Feb. 4-16. 2014 marked the second year of generator engagement.



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